



# Crib Notes

Winter 2015

Issue Number 121

*When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding joy. - Matthew 2:10*

## CELEBRATE THE NIGHT THE WORLD CHANGED

Dear Friends,

Although the leaves are gone and the weather is turning cold, our hearts are warmed with the thoughts of sharing this special time of year with all of you, our friends. We look forward to celebrating this holy season and embracing all the joy that surrounds the holidays.

As Christmas nears, please think of Angels' Place. A treasured member of the Angels' Place community, I know that you are also aware that our parents and children are not so privileged, and there is an opportunity to share a gift that will help change their world.

While struggling through many challenges, our families are hard at work finishing the fall term, one step closer to fulfilling their dreams. As you shop for gifts, prepare for gatherings with loved ones, and reflect on your blessings please consider a monetary gift to support the work of Angels' Place as we serve those in need.

Angels' Place is committed to the mission of ensuring parents and children receive a quality education, along with the necessary support to strengthen the family. These families have nowhere else to turn for help.

We are inviting you to be our star and shine. By believing in the potential of our parents and children you allow them to shine. **GIVE A GIFT THAT YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT; GIVE A GIFT THAT MATTERS AND ONE THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.** When a family enters our program we immediately assume the responsibility of raising 100% of the funds needed to provide services, and we depend on charitable donations in order to be able to continue our program. That is why we ask you to remember Angels' Place with a gift in support of our important work during the holidays.

Angels' Place remains committed to its mission. Can I count on you to further the vision for a brighter future for two generations? Every gift matters. Please, won't you decide to make a difference today?

On behalf of our organization and families, I thank you for your kind consideration and support. May God bless you and your family abundantly during this blessed Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

With gratitude,

Beth E. Banas  
Executive Director



### Yes! I want to support Angels' Place, Inc.

I'm enclosing a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help cover the cost of childcare expenses.  
*(Please make checks payable to Angels' Place)*

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info@angelsplacepgh.org  
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Find Angels' Place on Facebook!

The official registration and financial information of Angels' Place, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

## WINTER 2015 PROGRAM UPDATES

Each center held their annual Grandparents Luncheon in October and November with many extended family members and friends in attendance to celebrate all who play an instrumental role in supporting our parents and children. Similarly, Thanksgiving Dinner was enjoyed by families and staff at each center. All were invited to participate in our tradition of sharing things for which we are thankful.

All staff attended our quarterly organizational In-service at the North Side in September which featured an informative presentation on Trauma Informed Care by Dr. Judy Cohen, Professor of Psychiatry from Allegheny Health Network, and Faith O'Shea, Intake Coordinator. Three staff members were fortunate to attend the Homeless Education Network Summit VI sponsored by the Homeless Children's Education Fund.

Jeremiah's Place attended parenting classes and led a joint activity with children and parents in which they listened to the Pete the Cat: I Love my White Shoes audiobook. They gifted each of our families with a book to take home, led a shoe lacing activity and provided a healthy snack. Diane Edmonds, PNC Branch Manager, Edgewood Towne Centre, gave an engaging presentation on financial literacy to parents at each center.

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

All Pre-K children had the opportunity to travel to Heinz Hall for the Tiny Tots Symphony where they heard a musical telling of Eve Titus' beloved children's book, Anatole. Extra special thanks to Ed and Megan Grefenstette for connecting us with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, who allowed our children to meet the musicians and learn about their instruments.

Melissa from the Pittsburgh School for the Choral Arts, a community leader in music education, has begun a weekly music lesson at each center. Children play instruments and are engaged in singing, dancing and clapping, all of which is meant to encourage movement, cooperation, expression and music appreciation.

On September 21 Angels' Place took part in the International Day of Peace, which is observed around the world as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. At our Swissvale Center we had staff, children, parents and volunteers sign a peace proclamation and deliver it to the Swissvale Police Station as our pledge to promote peace in our community. We continued our annual tradition of having the entire Swissvale family decorate pinwheels to display on the lawn. Our North Side Pre-K friends talked about peace and how they can be a peaceful person and show kindness to others. The children made pinwheels and danced with them outside. Brookline friends worked together to create a Peace wreath to hang on the front door, read a story about friends and sang, "I've Got Peace Like a River" on the stage, while wearing their tie dye shirts.

Brookline friends went on a Halloween Field Trip to the Brookdale Senior Living Center. They paraded through the neighborhood in costumes, trick-or-treated in the main room of the Senior Center and performed "Way Up High in the Apple Tree" and "Five Little Pumpkins" for the residents.

Children's lesson plans included sensory exploration through different fall activities planned by the teachers. Many activities were planned incorporating leaves, spiders, pumpkins, apples, acorns, squash, turkeys and corn. Pre-schoolers are learning how to use many different kinds of tools. As everyone is getting acclimated to full classrooms and school-year routines a new little friend in Brookline, "Peep the Puppet", is helping children transition from outdoor time to lunch. The children are also actively engaged in Social and Emotional Development, learning to be "Bucket Fillers", a concept from the popular children's book Have You Filled a Bucket Today, by Carol McCloud. A bucket filler is someone who is kind and thoughtful!

## VOLUNTEERS

PNC Grow Up Great volunteers continue to support Angels' Place and played a large role in assisting with our Halo Award Dinner. Congratulations to four PNC groups "ORM Angels 2" and "Digital Team 3G", along with groups led by Gayle Williams and Linda Brown, who reached their 100 hours for 2015. Special thanks to PNC Spotlight Recognition Program for donating iPad's to each of our centers. Both PNC volunteers and Seton LaSalle students helped with Brookline's Food Bank delivery.

Special thanks to weekly volunteers Eileen Gelet, Anne Green, Russ Fry, Natalie Cichoski, Joan McElhinny, Renee Ayers, Debbie Finnerty, Dolores Casali, Kathy Beckovich, Megan Grefenstette, Isabelle Shatlock, Dora Zezulewicz, and Patty Kaczmariski, along with the Special Events Committee for all of their help.

## ADDITIONAL GRATITUDE

The Christ Light of the World Parish donated household items and necessities for our families. We are fortunate to again be included in the Christ Child Society Coat Program, which gives parents the opportunity to receive free coats, hats and gloves for each child. Saints John & Paul and Restoration Baptist Church performed much needed maintenance work at our Brookline/North Side centers. Kretschmann Organic Farm continues to provide fresh vegetables that allow our nutritional coordinators to create a variety of healthy meals and raise awareness of the value of farm to table fresh food.

Erin Harvey our Family Support Specialist brought back beautiful handmade quilts for all of our children from Three Rivers Quilters Guild after attending their annual event.

Thank you as well to those who participated in our Ten Thousand Villages and Pittsburgh Popcorn fundraisers, both were a huge success.

Additional thanks to the following people who held special collections or made donations: Bridget Kelly and students at St. Bede School, Kathy McCafferty and FedEx Services employees, Hayley Baranowski for collecting Halloween Costumes that provide so much entertainment for the children, National Council of Jewish Women Pittsburgh Section, North American Martyrs Ladies of Charity, St. Bartholomew Ladies of Charity, Mike Baker and Rotork-Hiller employees, Heidi Garth and Color Me Mine employees, Tracy O'Hara from Many Arms Reach You.

All of the above mentioned contributions are instrumental in Angels' Place having the ability to provide the highest quality of service to our parents and children.

## STAFF NEWS

Angels' Place is wishing a fond farewell to a student teacher. Ayanna Johnson was a fantastic addition to the Brookline team. She had an immediate impact on the Pre-K students and will be missed. We wish her all the best and hope to continue our relationship with Carlow University.

## COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

The theme of this year's Halo Award Dinner was "Celebrating the Angels Among Us" and that's exactly what we'd like to do for Angels' Place Board of Directors member David Townsend and his wife Patty. To keep the memory of each of their grandmothers alive, David and Patty – for the past six years – have generously donated funding for each Angels' Place center to continue the annual tradition of providing a wonderful Thanksgiving feast for families, friends and staff.

David has actively served on our Board since 2011, in addition to serving on our Finance Committee. He is the founder of D L Townsend Insurance Agency which serves McMurray and the surrounding communities. David and Patty are ambassadors of Angels' Place, always looking for ways to support our program and helping others to know about the services we offer to families.



*Patty and David Townsend*

For their kindness, we are truly thankful!

## AMAZON SMILE

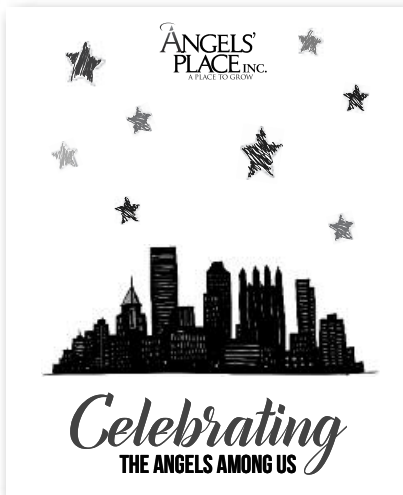
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It's very important to remember that a portion of your purchase will only support Angels' Place from the Amazon Smile page and NOT the traditional Amazon page, though the very same products are on both. If you don't see the Amazon Smile logo in the top left corner of the screen then your purchase will not support Angels' Place.

# HALO AWARD DINNER



THANK YOU to all who joined us at LeMont for our Annual Halo Award Dinner. It was a truly special evening celebrating Joseph & Carol Massaro for their years of dedication to Angels' Place, along with the vital role they continue to play in the lives of children and parents in need. The Massaro Family and Friends joined us in honoring Carol and Joe.

Special thanks to WPXI's Brittany McGraw who served as a wonderful Mistress of Ceremonies, despite her Tar Heels defeating our beloved Pitt Panthers. Guests were entertained by T.J. Hill, renowned magician, who fascinated the crowd with his magic. Beautiful music also set the mood for the evening featuring flutist Katie Miller accompanied by violinist Sarah Klicker. The evening also featured a touching slide show featuring Joe and Carol.

A warm thanks as well to our hardworking Special Events Committee who diligently worked to make this event a success. In addition, we applaud the effort of PNC Grow Up Great volunteers, Angels' Place Board and staff whose time and energy helped to ensure such a fantastic evening. You can find more photos from the evening on our Facebook page.

## HALO AWARD DINNER PHOTOS



*Sarah, Bethany and the  
ANGEL WISH LIST*



*Mistress of Ceremonies Ms. Brittany  
McGraw, Board President John Arch  
and parent speaker Cyara Powell*



*Angels' Place staff Kelsie,  
Executive Director Beth,  
and Rebecca*



*CCAC friends*



*New board member Krissy  
and her husband George.*

# HALO AWARD DINNER PHOTOS



*Angel's Place Staff*



*Full house of Angels' Place friends.*



*Halo Award door prize winner*



*Massaro family and Mary Winter*



*Angels' Place Founder Mary Winter and her daughters Suzy and Beth*



*Carol Massaro and friends look over the silent auction tables.*



*Swissvale teachers and parents*



*A magical night...*



*Halo Award winner Carol Massaro*



## WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING DONORS:

4 Moms	Fairmont Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh Cultural Trust
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Altimate Air Trampoline Park	The First Tee of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh Playhouse
The Andy Warhol Museum	Full Pint Brewing Company	Pittsburgh Steelers
Applebee's	Fun Fore All	Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens
Audubon Society of Western PA	Gateway Clipper Fleet	The Pittsburgh Tour Company
Bonnie Banas & Keith Rhodes	Eileen Gelet	PNC Grow Up Great Volunteers
Author & Illustrator, Mark Brewer	Giant Eagle – Edgewood Towne Center	Heidi & Karla Horner/Raffaele
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Bruegger's Bagels – Squirrel Hill	Hop Farm Brewing	The John Schneider Loresch Foundation
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Carnegie Science Center	Peggy & Paul Hinnebusch	Shubrew
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The Church Brew Works	Benny Lavella	Soldier's & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum
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City Theatre Company	Legume Bistro and Butterjoint	Southwest Airline
Clarissa Boutique	The Lodge at Geneva-on-the-Lake	Spoonwood Brewing
Colonial Grille Restaurant & Taproom	The Livermore	BBQ Stu's Barbeque Sauce
Color Me Mine	Max's Allegheny Tavern	Target – McCandless Twp.
Conley Resort	Michelle's Bella Boutique & Day Spa	Target - Monroeville
Contemporary Craft	Monster Mini Golf	Target – Ross Twp.
Costco	Mary Pat Moorehead	Chris Tascher
Cure Restaurant	National Aviary	Tennis Village
Curves of East McKeesport	New 2 You Kid's Consignment & Boutique	Thermo Systems
Nancy Daller	Olive or Twist	Voodoo Brewing
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Dinette	Amalia Paltan	Gayle Williams
Christean Dugan	Kim Paulson	Mary Winter
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### Special Thanks To:

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 Robert Santucci, Door Prize  
 Kate Miller and Sarah Kilcker, Musicians  
 T. J. Hill, Magician  
 South Hills Jewelers  
 Sheila Lucas  
 Parents, Children & Staff of Angels' Place  
 LeMont Staff  
 Jen Leck & Stephanie Parker, Slideshow

**All of us here at Angels' Place are extremely grateful to the many individuals, couples and families who made recent monetary and non-monetary donations, and to the foundations, organizations, and houses of worship for their generosity in support of our parents and children.**

## Monetary

Sharpsburg Aspinwall Rotary Club  
 St. Basil Church, Christian Mothers, Carrick  
 Knights of Columbus, Pittsburgh Chapter, East Liberty  
 Mt. Lebanon United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women

## Non-Monetary

St. Valentine Church, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Bethel Park  
 Resurrection Church, Women's Guild, Brookline  
 Bethel Presbyterian Church, Bethel Park  
 St. Winifred Church, Hands of Love Group, Mt. Lebanon

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**LIVE UNITED**



Support Angels' Place through United Way's Contributor Choice program. Designate your contribution to Angels' Place by using code #1200 North Side, #7193 Brookline or #3977 Swissvale.

Many other businesses encourage giving through America's Charities (EIN #: 25-1450489).

Federal employees can give through the Combined Federal Campaign, for which the Angels' Place code is #44139. The code for the State Employees' Combined Appeal is #5000-0017.

# PARENT SPOTLIGHT

Cyara Powell, better known to us as CiCi, is a recent graduate from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Law and is the mother of twin three year olds, Ceni and DeKhi. She and her children have been Angels' Place Brookline clients for the past two and a half years. CiCi served Angels' Place by acting as the Parent Speaker at our Halo Award Dinner this year. In her speech, she told the audience,

"There were many times that my road seemed weary. However, with faith, love, and the support and dedication of Angles Place, I was able to complete my career goals with excellence even through the struggle. Angels' Place proved to be my crutch and afforded me the opportunity to fully capitalize on my educational experience even as a mother of two. They showed me that I wasn't simply a client to them but a part of their family."

CiCi and her children are indeed part of our family and we have enjoyed watching each of them grow and develop in their unique ways. Ceni is an artist extraordinaire who can almost always be seen with papers and a writing utensil in her hands, drawing and creating. DeKhi has many interests, with music and song being high on the list, as well as reading. Just the other day, he started a sing-a-long on the PAT bus on the way to the Tiny Tots concert. The bus driver shared with the staff how it made her day. Congratulations to the whole family for learning and growing every day.



*Cyara Powell with her children,  
Ceni and DeKhi*



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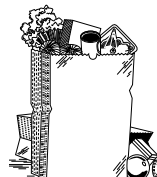
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# Wish Lists

## Brookline

- Size 5 and 6 diapers
- paper towels (regular rolls and w tri-folds for dispensers)
- tall kitchen garbage bags
- Kleenex Tissues
- Clorox Bleach
- latex gloves
- electric fry pan
- 100% Juice (single serve boxes or bottles are great)
- dried fruit or fruit cups (raisins, cranberries, apricots)
- healthy snack crackers
- Chex cereals, etc.
- coffee k-cups
- Gerber Graduates Puffs & Yogurt Melts
- fruit/veggie baby food
- rice cereal
- baby oatmeal
- white water-color paper (thick)
- letter-size laminating pouches
- postage stamps
- letter size copy paper
- rubber bands
- professional camera
- electric cordless broom
- baby wipes
- skin tone crayons and/or markers
- children's books with varying ability
- children's books about healthy eating



## North Side

- lullaby CDs
- welcome mat
- Play-Doh
- children's books and board books
- healthy cereal
- 100% fruit juice
- healthy snacks
- individual apple-sauce/fruit cups
- Dixie cups
- facial tissues
- napkins
- paper plates
- paper towels
- baby wipes
- Sharpie markers
- colored copier paper
- masking tape
- duct tape
- clear packing tape
- Post-It Notes
- batteries – AA, C, 9-volt
- trash bags – 13 and 30 gallon size
- hand soap
- dishwasher detergent
- laundry detergent
- hands free indoor garbage cans with lids
- playground balls, basket balls, soccer balls (soft for the little ones), kids footballs
- hula hoops
- dish soap
- electric can opener

## Swissvale

- all purpose cleaners
- 39 gal garbage bags
- automatic liquid dishwasher soap
- gallon freezer storage bags
- Lanyards
- tall kitchen garbage bags
- butcher block/knives
- paper napkins
- large crockpot
- mops and brooms
- blender
- 9 volt batteries
- light bulbs/candelabra bulbs
- Scott Toilet tissue
- birthday/get well/congrats etc. cards
- diaper wipes
- Charlie Chinchilla Food
- bleach
- size 4,5,6 diapers
- paper plates
- small plastic storage bins for classrooms
- ink pens/Sharpies
- masking tape
- Scotch Tape
- Timothy hay for small animals
- hand held can opener
- Sticky Tack
- jar spaghetti sauce
- cake frosting
- saltines
- cake mixes
- sprinkle parmesan cheese
- graham crackers
- salad dressing
- goldfish crackers
- Teddy Grahams
- pudding
- pretzels
- vanilla wafers
- hot cereal-Cocoa Wheat or Cream of Wheat
- baby food- bananas and apples
- baby cereal-rice